

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Growth spares Hoke fate of most Audit shows despite economy county has more money to spend

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County bulked up its general fund in the last fiscal year, although the county still has a lot of money obligated to ongoing projects, according

to the yearly financial report. A representative with Martin, Starnes & Associates Certified Public Accountants reviewed the annual financial report for the 2010-11 fiscal year with the Hoke County Board of Commissioners at

its meeting Monday night.

Overall the county has fared better than many other counties across the state, possibly because of the growth in the eastern part of Hoke due to the military expansion at Fort Bragg, a Martin, Starnes

associate told the board. Most other local governments in the state lost property tax revenue in the first quarter of 2011 and this trend is likely to continue in 2012, the auditing firm predicted. However, sales tax revenue grew by 4 percent in

the first quarter of 2011, the fourth consecutive quarter with growth, the report said.

State tax revenues are not enough to fully replace federal stimulus funds that expired in June, and federal healthcare reform will make it harder

for states to control costs, according to the forecast. Federal spending cuts will affect state and local governments to varying degrees, it stated.

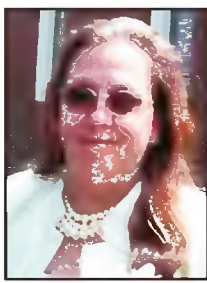
The total county revenue for the last fiscal year was (See FINANCES, page 4A)

Woman dies in head-on crash

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

One person died and another was seriously injured Saturday morning in a head-on collision on U.S. 401 Highway just south of Raeford.

Christine Neivel Marshall, 56, of Gainey Road in Raeford was killed when John David McAllister Jr., 63, also of Raeford, crossed the centerline and their vehicles collided head-on, accord-



Marshall died at the scene of the wreck, authorities said.

McAllister, who also lived on Gainey Road, sustained serious injuries in the crash and was airlifted to the University of North Carolina (See WRECK, page 7A)

City ponders electronic gaming regulations

By BILL LINDAU

An ordinance proposed to regulate electronic gaming is being studied by the City of Raeford. City Council held a public hearing on the proposal in its regular monthly meeting Monday evening.

Council heard comments from Felicia Locklear, city planner, and four citizens attending the meeting. Three individuals spoke against allowing electronic gaming within the city limits. Another man said regulations on (See GAMES, page 5A)

Honoring veterans



Demetri Allen was one of six Cub Scouts with Pack 409 at the Evangelical Methodist Church who helped the Veterans of Foreign Wars place flags on veterans' graves at the Raeford Cemetery in honor of Veterans Day. (Catharin Shepard photo)

This Week



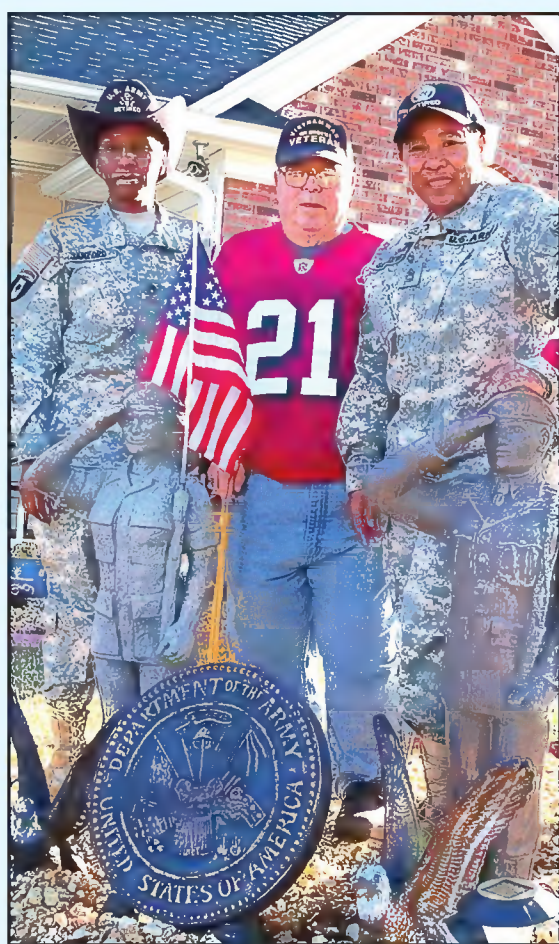
Debater does well
page 7A

Two stabbed,
one charged
in family fight
page 5A

Help send a child
to camp
page 2A

Calendar 2B
Classifieds 5B
Deaths 3A
Editorials 2A
Legals 3-4B
Sports 6A
Worship 2B

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Veterans (from left) Sha-Ron Sanford, Fred Tompkins and Ayra Salvatierra with some of Salvatierra's collection of patriotic statues. Above, the Statue of Liberty.

Woman's collection inspired by Army

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The small unit of soldiers in Ayra Salvatierra's front yard faces the street with a sharp salute, the American flags at their sides fluttering in a November breeze.

Two eagles at their feet flank the seal of the United States Army, and the brassy torch of the Statue of Liberty points skyward. Firefighters clutch their axes, and even the bronze dog dressed in firefighting gear looks ready for action.

It took Salvatierra three years to collect more than a dozen life-like statues that she displays in her yard, a brief time compared to the 23 years she spent serving

in the United States Army. It was her own military service that ignited her passion for collecting patriotic statues, she said.

"I'm proud that I served in the Army," she said.

Born to a Japanese-American father and a Panamanian mother, Salvatierra joined the military as a young woman because she wanted to see the world. She got her wish, as well as medical training and promotions for her hard work. She was a Sgt. 1st Class and had lived in Belgium, Germany, Korea and many places across the U.S. by the time she retired.

After coming back to the states, she moved to Hoke (See STATUES, page 5A)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

When I was driving from one grocery to another Friday, I thought about the Boy Scout motto: "Be prepared."

"Guess that's why I never made Eagle Scout," I said to myself. Charles, my list-making Eagle Scout friend, would have remembered to stash some dry wood a day before a forecast monsoon, so that at s'mores-making time on the weekend campout with nine yutes, making a fire wouldn't

require napalm. Instead, pressing on through what was already a deluge, I was hoping a store would have some of that sissy-fied plastic-wrapped dollar-an-ounce hardwood for city slickers that I could toss in the back of the church van. Turns out it's the one item that's not already on display for Christmas.

Anyway, I happened to drive past the establishment of my high school classmate John Manning and (See OTHER STUFF, page 5A)

Accreditors want to hear your opinion of the sheriff's office

As part of an upcoming accreditation process, the Hoke County Sheriff's Office is inviting residents to share their thoughts about the department.

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) will be in town later this month to examine all aspects of the Hoke County Sheriff's Office

policy and procedure, management, operations and support services, Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said.

Verification by the team that the Hoke County Sheriff's Office meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement (See OPINION, page 7A)